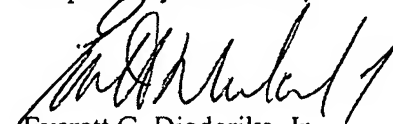


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the final Office Action dated March 17, 2009, claims 6-10, 12-15, 17 and 18 were indicated to be allowable and claim 16 was indicated to contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, only claims 1 and 3-5 remain rejected based on prior art. Although the Applicant does not necessarily agree with the positions taken by the Examiner for at least the reasons already of record, by the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 16 and claim 16 has been correspondingly canceled. In incorporating these limitations into independent claim 1, the vacuum applying step was inserted prior to the flushing step as the vacuum application occurs before the step of flushing the chamber as recited in allowable claim 16. In addition to this change, a minor word change was made to allowed claim 17 to correct a minor antecedent basis problem.

Based on the indication of allowable subject matter and the manner in which the claims have been amended, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims should now be in clear condition for allowance such that entry of this amendment/response, allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any additional questions or concerns regarding this matter, she is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below in order to further prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Everett G. Diederiks, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,323

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DIEDERIKS & WHITELAW, PLC
12471 Dillingham Square, #301
Woodbridge, VA 22192
Tel: (703) 583-8300
Fax: (703) 583-8301